

**CHAPTER 14**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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## **CHAPTER 14**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The organization for a major Law Enforcement Operation (Counter Drug or Alien Migrant Interdiction) is designed to show an organizational structure that could provide supervision and control for the essential functions required during such an operation.

It must be emphasized that this guide is not a substitute for law enforcement planning as outlined in the Maritime Counter Drug and Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations Manual (COMDTINST M16247.4). The Commandant and Area manuals, operation orders and policies that could include plans for such major multi-agency/multi-nation that would lead major Counter Drug or Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations should identify the organizations, resources, and command and control structure that would be utilized in the operation. Exercising these plans will develop and fine-tune national and agency roles in the UC and ICS.

The normal law enforcement action for Coast Guard units will be single unit activities. The Maritime Counter Drug and Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations Manual identifies the structure for these normal single unit operations and dictates in detail how the operation is to be carried out. Since the ICS is the primary system used by most Federal, State, and Local government agencies, it is advantageous to use and understand the ICS process in a large multi-agency and multi-national operation where the incident brings numerous agencies together with overlapping jurisdictions, responsibilities,

and capabilities. In these situations, Coast Guard Law Enforcement personnel may be expected to fill Command and General Staff positions, with other agencies in the role of IC an/or within an UC. In this IMH, the goal is to build upon the structure identified in the Maritime Counter Drug and Alien Interdiction Manual, and demonstrate how the UC and ICS organization may be used when a Law Enforcement Operation grows from a single unit operation to a Multi-Agency/Multi-National Operation.

For example, an alien migrant interdiction operation such as the Mariel Boat Lift can generate a huge multiple-agency response with a limited command and control structure. Because the Coast Guard is usually the first unit on-scene, and because of its mission responsibilities and capabilities, it will be instrumental in building the final overall command and control team.

Although there are many types of law enforcement activities, a major multi-agency Alien Migrant Interdiction Operation was selected to demonstrate how the expanding modular ICS organization might be used to manage a Law Enforcement Operation.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY SCENARIO AND MODULAR ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT**

**MODULAR DEVELOPMENT** - A series of examples of modular development are included to illustrate one method of expanding the ICS organization.

**INITIAL RESPONSE ORGANIZATION** - A U.S. Coast Guard cutter is on normal patrol when it intercepts a small boat fitting the profile of an undocumented migrant vessel. The Coast Guard cutter carries out the standard boarding operation procedures for the vessel. See Page 14-7 for an example of the Initial Response Organization.

**REINFORCED RESPONSE ORGANIZATION** - Upon boarding the profiled vessel, the boarding party discovers a large number of undocumented migrants. During the boarding party's search and investigation, the interpreter overhears one of the undocumented migrants express his concern for relatives aboard another vessel. The Commanding Officer of the cutter relays this information to the U.S. Coast Guard District with operational control over his mission, and a Coast Guard aircraft is deployed to search for the other vessel. The District Commander assumes the role of lead agency and IC for the interdiction operation, and requests the appropriate U.S. Coast Guard Area Commander to direct an additional cutter to his operational control to assist in the search for other possible undocumented migrant vessels. The District Commander also notifies local DOD units that there is a possibility of additional undocumented migrant vessels

in the operational area. The second cutter has additional Law Enforcement Detachments (LEDETS) assigned before sailing. See Page 14-8 for an example of the Reinforced Response Organization.

**MULTI-DIVISION/GROUP ORGANIZATION** - Within a day of searching, the Coast Guard aircraft and JIATF resources have identified numerous vessels of all sizes that fit the undocumented migrant vessel profile. This information is relayed to the District, who in turn notifies the Area Commander and Coast Guard Headquarters. Coast Guard Headquarters notifies the Department of Justice, the Immigration and Naturalization Agency, and all other federal law enforcement agencies. Upon notification to these agencies by Coast Guard Headquarters, the Commandant will normally give authorization for direct communication to the District Commander. The Area Commander orders all available cutters (WHEC, WMEC) to the area for interdiction operations under the operational control of the District Commander. DOD lends its resources to assist in the search for undocumented migrant vessels.

The Department of Justice assigns a representative to assist and coordinate its activities with the District Commander. The District Commander's Staff and Agency Representatives are tasked with developing the resource requirements for the extended interdiction operation, and determining the resources that will have to be obtained from outside the District. The District Chief of Operations is assigned as the OPS. The operational area is divided into geographical divisions and a Coast Guard cutter is assigned to each division for patrol and boarding operations. A Navy vessel is directed to the scene to serve as an undocumented

migrant holding area. U.S. Customs provides aircraft for additional search patrols.

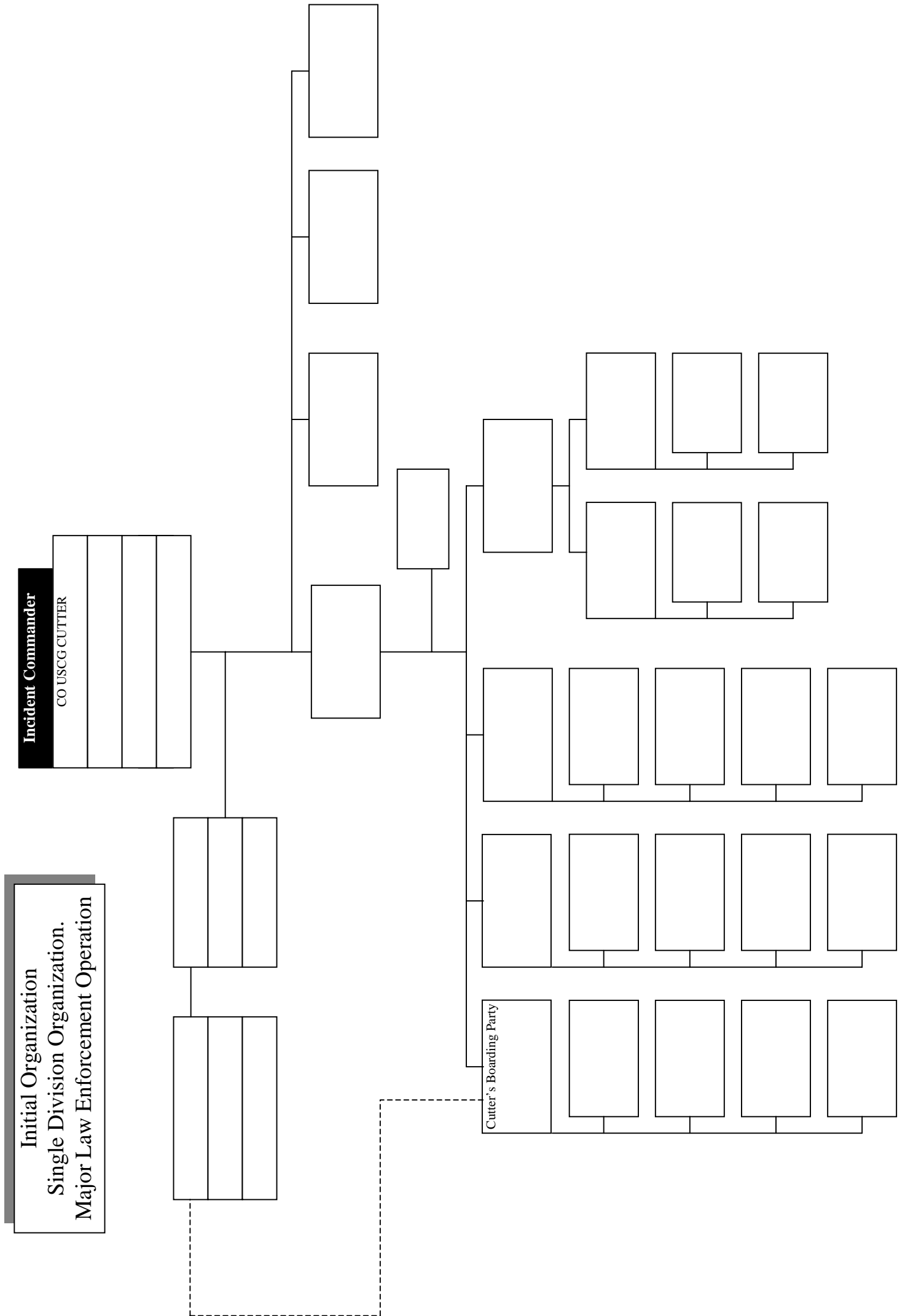
Since many of the vessels being used to carry undocumented migrants are sailing under the flag of other nations, the U.S. Coast Guard has requested through the Department of State that representatives of those governments be assigned as ship riders to Coast Guard vessels, allowing them to carry out boardings on the applicable nations vessels in international waters.

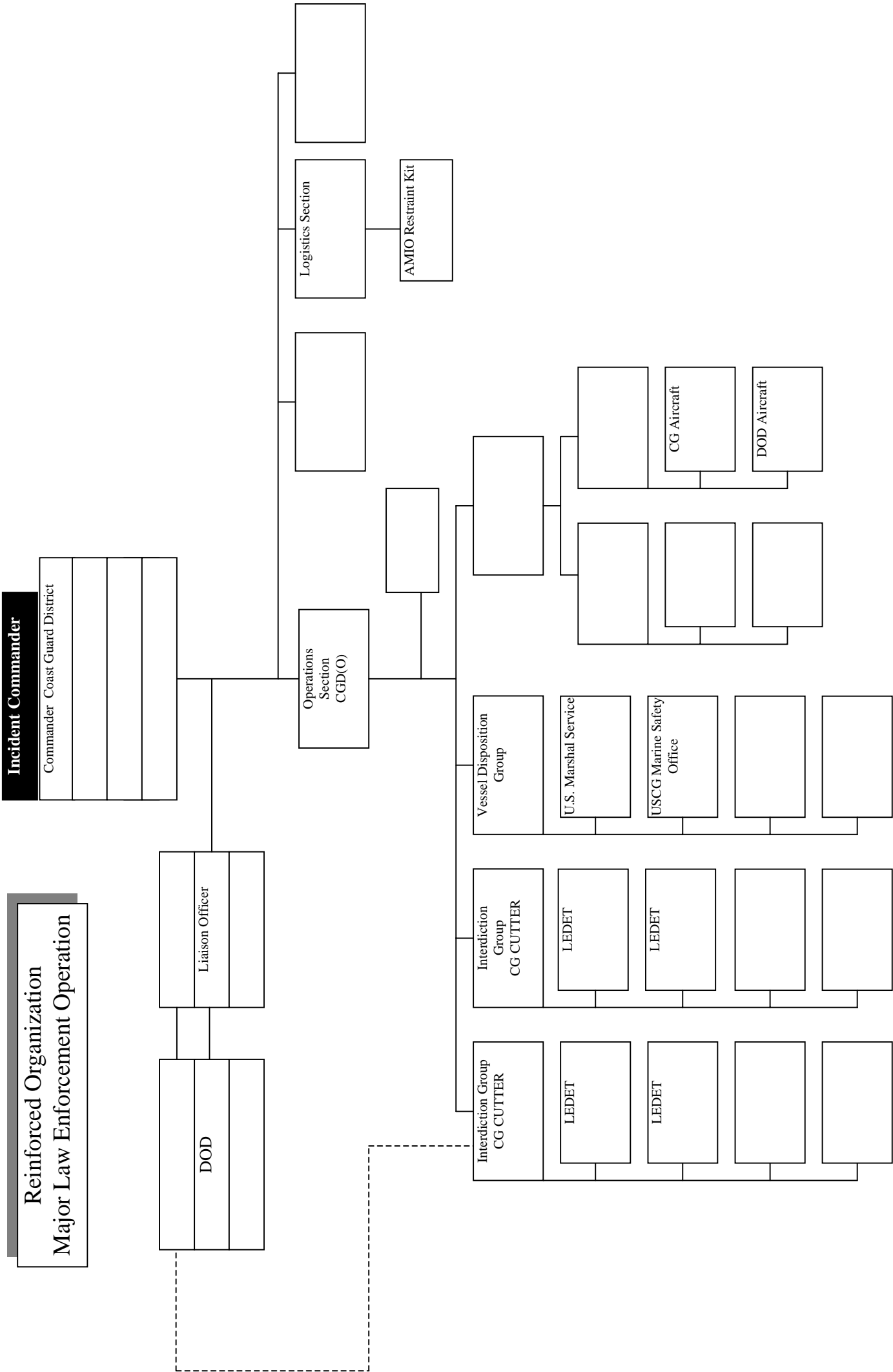
The UC establishes a JIC to handle the intense media interest that is developing over the operation.

See Page 14-9 for an example of the Multi-Division/Group Organization.

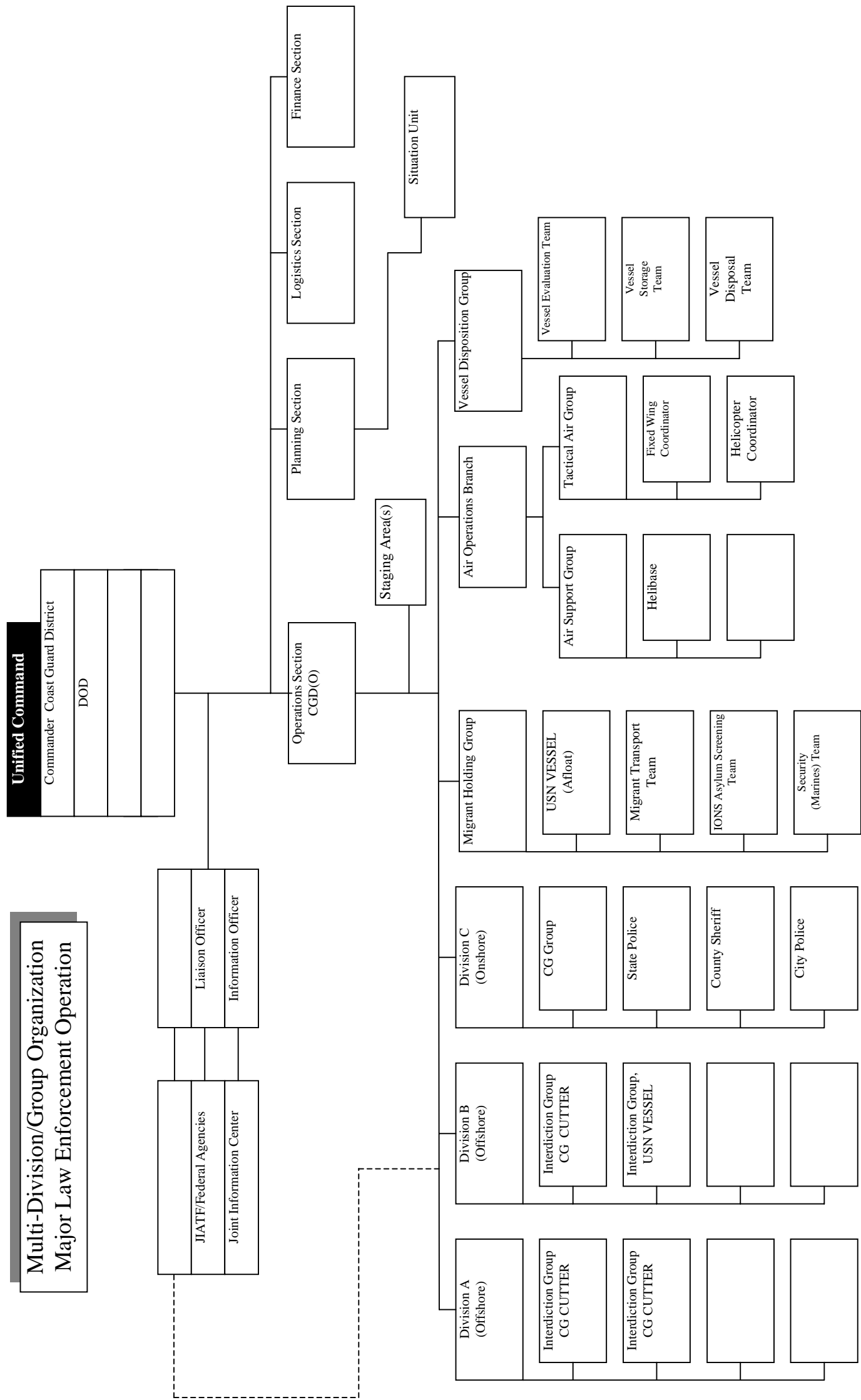
**MULTI-BRANCH ORGANIZATION** - As the situation develops, the number of undocumented migrants discovered and detained by the Coast Guard has grown beyond the capability of vessels to safely and humanly hold them offshore. The UC has determined that holding facilities must be prepared on shore. The UC Federal, State and Local resources to assist in planning and implementing the shoreside facilities.

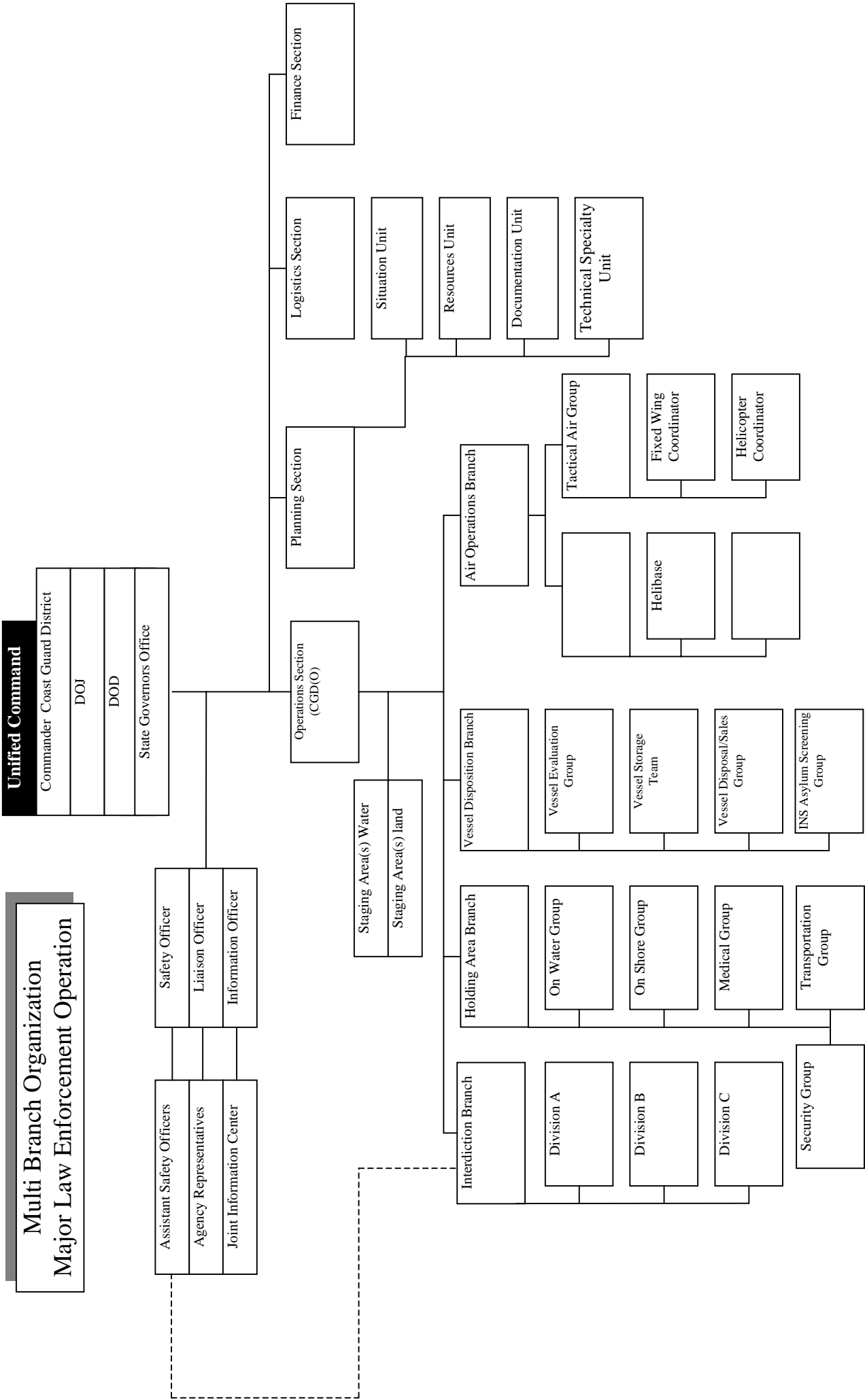
See Page 14-10 for an example of the Multi-Branch Organization.











## ICS POSITIONS

Only those ICS positions and tasks specific and unique to Law Enforcement missions will be described in this section. Persons assigned the common positions consistent with the NIIMS organization should refer to Chapters 6 through 12 of this IMH for their position/task descriptions and checklists.

**ASYLUM PRESCREENING OFFICER (APSO)** - The APSO is responsible for conducting initial screenings of individuals who have made asylum claims or come from a nation with a history of political persecution, human rights violations, or torture. APSOs are full time asylum officers deployed to the field. The APSO will normally be assigned to the LO as an Agency Representative or directly to the Command Staff.

These prescreening interviews determine if an individual has a credible fear of persecution upon return to his/her home nation. APSO interviews are transmitted to INS Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for review by asylum specialists. If it is determined that an individual has a credible fear of persecution, the person is taken to another location for more extensive interviews. While the APSO may be assigned in various locations within the ICS, he/she needs to have direct access to communications with Washington, D.C. The contents of APSO interviews may be confidential and not available for intelligence or general use.

Additional duties include:

- a. Review the Agency Representative Responsibilities (Page 7-5).
- b. Advise the IC/UC on the procedures for asylum interviews, specific support required, and the

- separation of those claiming asylum.
- c. Liase with INS Headquarters on asylum issues.
- d. Conduct additional interviews as necessary.
- e. Advise the IC on trends in asylum claims and indicators that those within the UC may need to be aware of.

**VESSEL DISPOSITION GROUP SUPERVISOR** - The Vessel Disposition Group Supervisor is responsible for the disposal of vessels seized in the course of Law Enforcement Operations. In some cases this will involve warning the return of the vessel to the flag state, but in many situations the vessel will be seized for forfeiture (either because it is stateless or because it was used in the commission of a crime). In drug interdiction missions, this task is usually performed by the U.S. Customs Service. In all other cases, the U.S. Marshall Service performs this function.

If an asset is seized for forfeiture, all hazardous materials must be removed and all safety violations must be corrected before the vessel can be disposed of. The lead agency will contract out for removal and disposal of hazardous materials from the vessel using private contractors. Coast Guard Marine Safety Offices may be asked to assist the lead agency in assessing the condition of the vessel, the applicable environmental laws that may apply to the vessels condition, and steps needed to correct the assessed violations. Addition duties included:

- Review the Division/Group Supervisor Responsibilities (Page 8-3).

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DETACHMENT TEAM**

### **LEADER - Law Enforcement Detachment Team**

(LEDET) Leaders are responsible for separate teams of individuals trained in boarding vessels for conducting law enforcement operations. LEDETs typically deploy to U.S. Navy and foreign naval vessels to provide them with law enforcement capability. They can also be used in various situations to augment Coast Guard Cutter Boarding Teams, and in these cases should not be confused with the Cutter's Boarding Team, which is made up of individuals permanently assigned to the Cutter's crew. Addition duties included:

- Review the Strike Team Leader/Task Force Responsibilities (Page 8-4).